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At that time anti-Russian feeling was strong in England
and a number of fantastic propositions for the dismemberment
of the Muscovite Empire were being published. So influential
a man as Lord Stratford de Redcliffe advocated the creation
of an independent Circassia at the time of the Treaty of Paris,
and in 1862 a number of enthusiastic public meetings at Dundee,
Preston and elsewhere welcomed Cherkess deputies, who had
come to England to petition the intervention of the Queen.
But these efforts were of no avail. The Kars and Ingur
campaigns had convinced responsible British statesmen that
it was too late to attempt to retard the Russian absorption of
the Caucasus, and the Treaty of Paris, by ignoring "the Cir-
cassian Question," gave the sanction of Europe to the Russian
position in those regions.

In 1859 Shamil, deserted by his followers, and surrounded
by Russian forts, was driven from his last stronghold, Veden.
Accompanied only by a hundred faithful *murtazeks*, he fled to
the mountainous aul of Gunib in Southern Daghestan, where
he subsequently surrendered.[1] The war-weary mountaineers
had everywhere laid down their arms; the Russian conquest
of the Eastern Caucasus was complete.

Five years later, in 1864, the last resistance of the Cherkesses
and Abkhazians was crushed. Nearly 500,000 of these un-
fortunate people, together with 100,000 Chechens, emigrated
subsequently to Turkey, where the greater number died of
disease and starvation.[2] They left their mountain homes a
desert, but their place was gradually filled by Bohemian and
Cossack immigrants.

During the Russo-Turkish War of 1877–8 there was some
unrest amongst the remnants of the western tribes, but Turkish
attempts to raise a general insurrection of the Mussulman
mountaineers were ineffectual. As a result of the war, the
Russians, by the Treaty of Berlin (1878), obtained almost
the last remaining areas inhabited by the Caucasian races,
Batum and the Ajar hills.

[1] After exile at Kaluga and Kiev, he died on a pilgrimage, at Medina, in 1871.

[2] Some thousand Cherkesses—Chapsughs, Ulikhs, Kabardans and Abkhazians—are settled in the vilayet of Sivas, others in that of Bitlis. The Chechens, after causing much trouble in the vilayets of Kars and Erzerum, finally scattered about the region of Bitlis, Van and Mush, while others settled in the vilayet of Diarbakr.

2 [i.e., during the Crimean War -- Analyst]

central T'erek, and a larger southern one along the tributaries of the Sundja. Along the T'erek, below Vladikavkaz, the Oset'is have been split in a similar way, and many more examples could be adduced here. During the most hectic years of Stalin's absolutism, the bigger towns and cities having industrial enterprises were filled with Russians sent there as workers and specialists of all kinds, often only as specialists in national coercion in the event of war. In the Northwest and North Caucasian area, the people finally showed such an overwhelming enthusiasm for Hitler and his victorious "supermen" that entire nations, and not surprisingly quite a number of Russians with them, went over to the Nazi side, even before the spearheads of the German armies had reached them. Thus later on, after Hitler's defeat at Stalingrad, their defection had the well-known consequences: the "culprit nations" were punished in true Stalinist fashion, with the result that the ethnic map of the area was changed to a considerable degree.

Russian peasant villages were found even in the Anti-Caucasus; most of them are scattered all over the northern part of the area, mainly in valleys of the northern border mountains. But single Russian villages can be found as far as the two provinces of Kars and Ardahan, where the Russian population seems to have remained after their reannexation by Turkey, as suggested by a few place names.